

Tornado Hits Spring Hill

Fact Sheet

Event date: April 23, 1997

Event time: 8:40 AM EST

Event severity: F0

Property damage: ~\$150,000

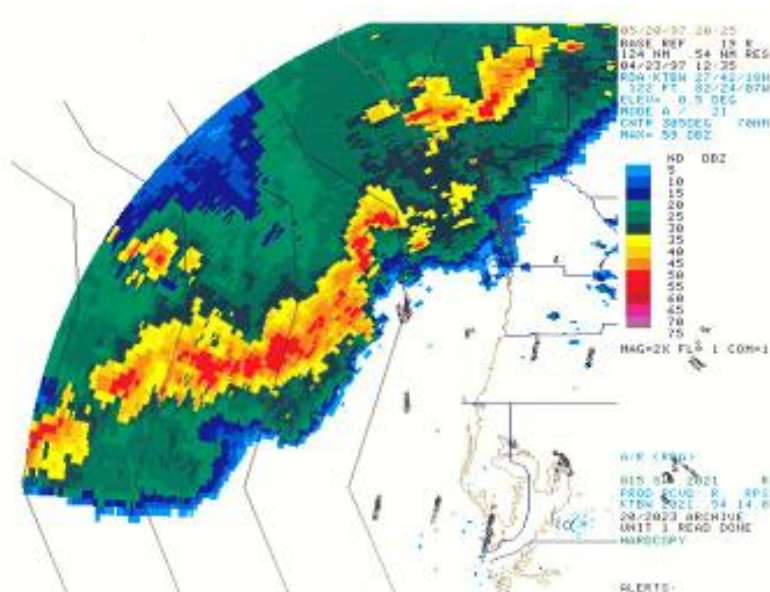


Figure 1. Radar showing bow echo during the time of a waterspout which later became a tornado.

Summary of event:

A tornado sporadically touched down along a 16 mile long and 10 yard wide path, damaging up to 50 homes near U.S. Highway 41, four miles southwest of Brooksville, east to the Ridge Manor area. The tornado damaged at least twelve mobile homes and a church in Spring Hill. The most significant damage occurred on Blackhawk Drive where several mobile homes were damaged and a car was smashed by a fallen tree. The tornado downed numerous trees, power lines, broke windows and downed signs from U.S. Highway 19 east across the city of Spring Hill before it lifted. One person standing outside near the damaged church suffered facial and leg injuries from wind blown glass. Several trees and power lines were also downed from the tornado before it lifted and dissipated. Most damage to homes in the path of the tornado consisted of minor to moderate roof damage, destroyed porch and pool enclosures and downed trees. Lisa-Marie Herman and her two children narrowly escaped almost certain death as they left their mobile home a mere 15 minutes before the tornado ripped it apart.

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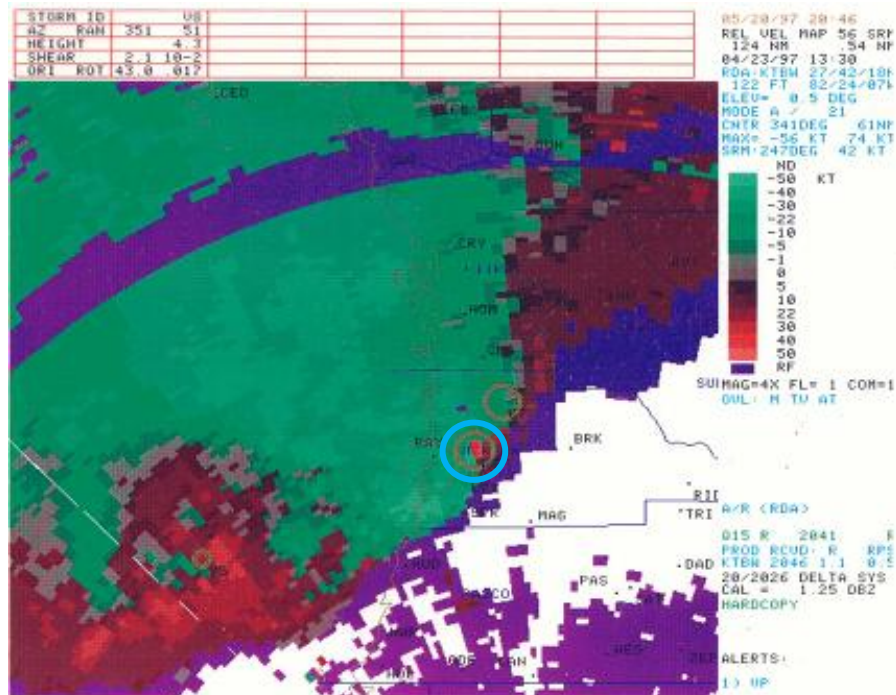


Figure 2. Relative velocity map indicating rotation (within blue circle) over Spring Hill, FL.

Acknowledgements: The Tampa Tribune (April 24, 1997). The National Weather Service, Tampa Bay Area. The National Climatic Data Center.